July 11, 1967

Mr. Leon R. Brooks
Vice President and General Counsel
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
51 West 42nd Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Your letter of July 7 is a not unexpected statement of policy and position. It is in no way a statement of fact. I did not expect CBS to confess playing Lurlsen to a federal George. I do not expect you to be proud of it or to voluntarily acknowledge it.

Because I do not doubt that the people you employ are competent, I have not from the beginning doubted a policy decision was made to mix the video whitewash and that, once this decision was made, everyone and everything fell into line. You personally are perhaps unfamiliar with the fact of the assassination and its so-called investigation and tell me what you have been told. If you have done nothing else since CBS decided to do this series and have worked around the clock, you cannot possibly have amassed any fact that remotely warrants the claims of your letter.

It is just plain wrong. CBS did not in any sense make an impartial evaluation of any aspect of these two tragedies. Rather, it compounded the great and unnecessary one that followed the murder. I suggest that if you try and maintain this fiction you personally and CBS will be even more embarrassed in the long run, for your position is indefensible. Your so-called experiments prove the opposite of your conclusions, your so-called impartial selection of evidence is more partial and less defensible than that of the erring Commission.

This is susceptible of proof, if you genuinely want truth, which I also doubt. Send me a copy of the transcript, which CBS has promised me but I have not yet received. I will read it, make a few brief notes and will thereafter, at your convenience, show you a total amount of factual and doctrinal error that I feel safe in predicting you will be unwilling to concede in advance CBS could commit. Further, I agree to your taping everything I say and I will thereafter confront each or all of your people who may then undertake to dispute what I will say.

Establishment of truth on this subject is not difficult, if CBS wants truth. The trust is that your program, which was on a controversial subject, was neither impartial, fair or even a shallow pretense of the presentation of two sides. I represent the side you pretended to present but did not.

There is a further element that I presume you are not familiar with. I have the records to establish that familiarity. More than a year ago CBS, on the proper executive level, read my first book on this

subject (I have completed four and published three) which then existed in a limited edition only. Leslie Midgley is among those who read it. My proposal was a special based upon my work. This is what CBS considered.

Now you come forth with just that, without reference to me or my work by name and without a presentation of any aspect of "the other side" that does not come from my work. I grant that there are certain facts and arguments that anyone working the field can find, if he tries hard enough, and some that are inevitable. However, subject to a careful reading of the transcript, the remarkable thing is that, of all the criticisms of the Commission that can be made, CBS did not make one that did not appear first in my books. This is true also of your critical conclusions: There is not one that is not mine. More, you come forth with both fact and conclusions that are mine alone, not shared or published by those you call "critics" (you should understand that Epstein does not fit this description, for his mild dissent is with the Commission's methods and he, without even pretending to examine the subject, assumed Oswald's guilt).

More, in some cases you attribute to others what I alone published in my books, and where you did not do this, you did not identify your source, even where you did acknowledge it was not original CBS work. This, too, is susceptible of proof if that is what you want. Further, the only permission CBS sought of me was to use some of my then unpublished work. This I granted in exchange for credit. I provided you with copies.

Rather than give me credit, you decided against using this material. This is consistent with your continuing effort to suppress me and my work, not unique with CBS-TV. It is consistent with your use of my published material without credit and your devotion of four hours to this subject without reference to the first, most exhaustive, most complete, certainly most extensive, work in the field. Nor can it be justified on the basis that my work has not achieved popularity in the market place, for I have reason to believe that there is only one book which may have had greater sale.

I have not yet consulted counsel, but I believe there is a prima facie case of improper and unauthorized use of my property, without acknowledgment, credit or permission, that CBS knew what it was doing, and that your out-of-hand denial of violation of the "fairness doctrine" is a policy rather than a factual determination.

Accept my challenge if you want the truth.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg